

A Thing Worth Looking At.

We clip the following item from the money article of the New York Tribune for 31st May:

"About two millions of dollars of Bonds and Mortgages held by the Ohio Life and Trust Company upon property in Ohio, fall due to-morrow, the required year's notice having been given last June. These Mortgages have been running many years, and are called in now in order to remove the capital of the Company from the State, the present oppressive Tax Law rendering it impossible to sustain a banking establishment in that State without loss. The tax upon this Company amounts in round numbers to three hundred thousand dollars per annum. If enforced we do not see that any bank can be carried on in Ohio under the law."

There is in this little paragraph material for a long sermon; but we forbear. The declared fact speaks plainly enough for the dullest conception. Here we have the announcement that *two millions of dollars* is to be withdrawn from the State. To replace this money loaned to our farmers and manufacturers and business men, at least *ten per cent. interest* will have to be paid in the present condition of affairs. *But the demand must be met or the securities become forfeit.* And this is the work of the quacks who, without understanding the first principle of public economy, are entrusted by the people with the dictation of the revenue policy of the great State of Ohio. This money was not wanted by the Life and Trust Company; it was considered a permanent investment, and might have remained among us stimulating industry and adding wealth to the State. The financial bodies who have managed our affairs for the last five years have succeeded, as their measure of glory, in raising interest from six and seven per cent. to ten per cent.; have burdened our citizens with unequal and unjust taxation; have driven capital from our State, and are fast subjecting the productive industry of our people to the tender mercies of the broker and money-shaver. Is all this for the benefit of the Democracy, or the Aristocracy?—[O. S. Journal.]

STAMPEDE IN THE ILLINOIS PENITENTIARY.—The Alton papers contain accounts of the attempt of several convicts to escape from the Penitentiary in that city. Thursday afternoon, May 11th, as the convicts were returning from the dinner hall to the work shops, four of them suddenly made a break for the wall, and throwing against it a long beam, which lay in the yard, climbed to the very top, jumped over and endeavored to make their escape across the bluffs. The guard in the box gave the alarm, at the same time firing five or six guns at them. Two were shot in the arm. A number of citizens immediately started in pursuit, and succeeded in capturing three of them. The first, exhausted from loss of blood, willingly surrendered himself. The second was overtaken in attempting to scale a fence. He turned upon those in pursuit, and brandishing a huge knife, threatened to kill the first who approached. He was knocked down and secured. The third also had a knife in his possession, but was secured before he had an opportunity of making use of it. The fourth armed with a knife in one hand and a stone in the other, ran across the bluffs, and though hotly pursued, succeeded for some time in eluding his pursuers. After a diligent search he was discovered at the bottom of a sink hole, hid under the trunk of a tree.

The Ohio and Indiana railroad was completed to Delphos, on Thursday last. Quite a demonstration was made on the completion of the track-laying. Judge Metcalf made a speech (which, of course was a good one,) and we are told *considerable lemonade was drunk.* The first passenger train will make its appearance in our streets on Monday next.—[Delphos Whig.]

The Washington correspondent of the Courier & Enquirer says the Cuban filibusters have 42,000 fighting men on their rolls, and that at least 10 per cent. of this number would be ready for action at a moment's notice. Gen. Quitman is at the head of a military organization.

AN ANGLO-FRENCH FLEET AT CUBA.—The latest advices from Cuba state that the arrival of several French and English war vessels at Havana has greatly inspired the Captain General. He gives out that they have come to aid in destroying filibusters, and destroying the puny Navy of the United States, should President Pierce attempt to blockade the Cuban ports.

Pezuela is lavish of his attentions to the French and English officers, and even the seamen get a share of Spanish civility. The Spanish officials are wonderfully brave, and talk defiantly of the Americans while their supposed protectors are in sight. They think that with very little assistance from France and England, they will prove more than a match for the Yankees.

Some of the more intelligent Spaniards shake their heads at these boasts, and do not conceal their opinion of the mad policy upon which their Government seems bent. They admit that the Island will be ruined if Pezuela is not recalled and a man of more sagacity and prudence sent out in his place. Nor have they any faith in the disinterested friendship of France and England. Both powers have been persevering enemies to Spain. The one has sought to destroy her nationality, and the other has robbed her of her colonies, and made her its vassal. They, therefore, say, if Spain is to lose Cuba, let it go to the Americans.

AN IMMENSE BRIDGE.—A correspondent of the Chicago Press thus describes the great bridge at Peru, Ill., on the Illinois railroad:

"The great bridge of the Illinois Central Railroad, 3,500 feet, or two-thirds of a mile in length, is rapidly approaching completion; the cars, however, will not run over it before October. This, your readers are aware, is the greatest work of the kind in the West, and is one of the 75 truss bridges now under contract by the enterprising firm of Stone & Boomer of Chicago. It reaches from bluff to bluff, is 75 feet in height, contains upward of 1,000,000 feet of timber, all worked up in Chicago, and how much iron and stone I know not. The mason-work is not excelled, and is of the Joliet hydraulic rock. The top is to be covered with tin and made water tight; the trains of cars are to run on top of all; beneath them and between the frames pass the roads for the wagons, and underneath all passes the river and canal. An ornamental railing is to be placed each side of the track."

HOW CANADA OBTAINED ITS NAME.—The origin of the word Canada is curious enough. The Spaniards visited that country previous to the French, and made particular searches for gold and silver; and finding none, they often said among themselves "Acanada" (there is nothing here.) The Indians who watched closely, learned this sentence and its meaning. After the departure of the Spaniards, the French arrived; and the Indians—who wanted none of their company, and supposed they were also Spaniards, come on the same errand—were anxious to inform them that their labor was lost by tarrying in that country, and incessantly repeated to them the Spanish sentence—"Acanada." The French who knew a little of Spanish as the Indians, supposed this incessantly recurring sound was the name of the country, and gave it the name of "Canada," which it has borne ever since.

A QUESTION FOR THE CURIOUS.—In removing the rock from the west bank of Black River, opposite Herrick Parker's factory, for the purpose of preparing a foundation for the new saw-mill which Messrs. Chapman & Lockwood are building, a layer of charcoal several inches thick and a number of feet in extent, was found in the solid rock, some 20 feet from the upper surface. How did it get there, is an interesting question for geological speculation.—[Elyria Dem.]

MR. BUCHANAN AGAINST THE NEBRASKA BILL.—At a public meeting in Philadelphia, last Tuesday evening, Ex-Governor Johnson said that he had in his pocket a letter of the Hon. James Buchanan, in which that distinguished statesman had expressed the opinion that if that solemn compact was violated the Union would be dissolved.

The Ward Case.

LETTER OF HON. JOHN J. CRITTENDEN.
ST. LOUIS, May 14, 1854.

DEAR H—: Your letter of the 2d inst. was received a few days ago, and you may be assured that the motives which dictated it are properly understood and appreciated. You desire information in relation to my appearance as counsel in the late trial of young Ward, in order that my friends may be better able to vindicate my conduct from the unjust censure which, without reflection, has been cast upon it.

I have had nothing to do with the case except professionally, as counsel for the accused. My connection with it may be stated in a few words. Details are unnecessary and immaterial.

Relations of private friendship had from my earliest manhood existed between me and many of the members of the family to which belonged Robert J. Ward, Esq., the father of the accused. He and I had long been personal friends, and a friend he was to be loved and valued.

When he was in the deepest distress and agony, it was made known to me that he desired I should appear as counsel for his sons, then imprisoned and awaiting their trial under a heavy load of prejudice and excitement. Could I, as a professional man—could I, as a friend, have refused to do so? No, I could not.

The very responsibility of appearing in the case, under the existing excitement, made it the more necessary for me to do it, or appear to be a timid lawyer and worthless friend.

After considering of the matter, and the repeated solicitations of common friends, I determined not to reject the appeal made to me, but to appear in the case and render to the accused such professional services as I could. I determined also that I would receive no fee for my service. I believed that I might exact almost what amount of compensation I pleased, and that was felt by me as a reason why I should take none. I shrank from the idea of appearance even of bargaining with a distressed friend, or speculating upon his misfortunes or his generosity. Having come to these conclusions, I informed Mr. Matt. F. Ward of them by a note addressed to him some few weeks before his trial, and received from him a letter of grateful acknowledgments. His father was then absent in New Orleans, as I supposed.

I accordingly appeared for him, and defended him with what ability I could; but I neither did nor said anything that was not within the strictest limits of an honest and honorable discharge of professional duty.

The trial took place at Elizabethtown, the seat of justice of Hardin county, about eighty or one hundred miles from my residence in Frankfort.

I had nothing to do with the preparation of the case or the selection of a jury. These professional duties were performed by other counsel, better acquainted with the facts of the case and the persons presented as jurors. I have no reason to doubt that these duties were performed in a manner becoming the profession, and the honorable character of the counsel on whom they devolved. I may say that I had nothing to do with the case but to argue it before the court and jury. The trial, so far as I know or could observe, was, in all respects, fairly conducted.

At the time I engaged to appear in the case, I had heard nothing of it but what might have been gathered from common rumor.

I have done nothing but what my judgment and my feelings approved. I have in the exercise of my profession appeared as counsel for a friend, the son of a friend, and for that I have no defence to make. I did not intrude myself into the cause. I appeared in it only because they wished it.

I am your friend, &c.

J. J. CRITTENDEN.

L. H., Esq., New Orleans.

CHEERING PROSPECTS FOR FARMERS.—The prospect for fruit, &c., as far as we can ascertain was never better. Peaches, apples, pears, cherries and all other fruit seem to be abundant, and promise as large a crop as was ever gathered.

The wheat crop in this section of the

country is also very promising, notwithstanding apprehensions to the contrary.—The season has been very favorable for spring work, and the farmers have planted their crops with unusual dispatch. The high prices of all kinds of produce will cause a greatly increased production. Notwithstanding this increase, there is no danger of a material fall in prices. The war in Europe will create an extraordinary demand, and this country will be looked to as the source of supply. Independently of the war our regular export trade has become so extensive as to justify and require an increased production.—[Lebanon Star.]

The Boston correspondent of N. Y. Evening Post says:—"In regard to the homicide of batchelder, on the night of the attempt at rescue, it should be fully understood that Batchelder was not as has been stated in Congress, a regular deputy marshal, who died in the discharge of a necessary duty of his office, in resisting the rioters, but a mere volunteer to the slave-catchers, as he had previously been in the trial of Sims and Shadrach. He was not a constable, but a truckman, whose business necessities required no such abasements as he voluntarily underwent."

Revel, which is reported to have been bombarded and captured by sir Charles Napier, is a city about the size of Syracuse in this State, lying on the south side of the Gulf of Finland, about 210 miles west from St. Petersburg. It is the capital of the Russian province of Esthonia. It is very strongly fortified, and its harbor is one of the stations of the Russian fleet. A large proportion of its population are of German origin. Next to Cronstadt, it is the most important position on the Gulf.—[Alb. Jour.]

WASHINGTON, June 6.—Lord Elgin and Mr. Hincks leave to-day. The Fishery and Reciprocity Treaties are fully arranged and to be subjected to the decision of the Provincial Congress to assemble at Montreal.

Official dispatches from Soule state that in addition to the remission of the fine in the Black Warrior case, Spain offers to the steamers of that line all the privileges and exemptions of British mail steamers.

England and France have demanded of Spain 24,000 men for the occupation of Jeppo and Palestine. Spain refuses unconditionally. England denies that she has either tendered men or ships to protect Cuba.

NIAGARA SHIP CANAL.—A map of the proposed ship canal around the Falls of Niagara, has been recently made, from which it appears that the length of the work is to be 25½ miles, with fourteen double locks and nine single ones. The harbor at Olcott contains about ten acres below the first lock, and between that and the second lock, a distance of about 1½ miles, it is of the capacity of from 300 to 500 feet. There are to be two basins near the village of Lockport, one containing about 40 acres and the other about 6 acres.

The Finance Committee of the Board of Assistant Aldermen of the city of New Orleans have reported an ordinance authorizing the Mayor of that city to subscribe \$1,500,000 toward the constructing of a railroad between Mobile and New Orleans—the subscription to be payable in bonds of the city for \$1,000 each, having thirty years to run, bearing an interest at 6 per cent. per annum, with interest coupons, payable half-yearly either in New York or New Orleans.

The adjuncts of the southern aristocracy will do well to read the following from the Richmond Examiner, embodied in an article on "Virginia and her libellers":

"Virginia, in this confederacy, is the impersonation of the well-born, well-educated, well-bred aristocrat. She looks down from her elevated pedestal upon her parvenu, ignorant, mendacious, Yankee vilifiers as coldly and calmly as a marble statue. Occasionally, in congress, or in the nominating conventions of the democratic party, she condescends, when her interests demand it, to recognize the existence of her adversaries at the moment when she crushes them."